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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-22

SEPTEMBER 15, 1944

GENERAL CROP PROSPECT GOOD

Crops in central part of the country improved after August rains - corn, tobacco, sweet potatoes, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, etc. But important crops on both coasts were shortened by continued drought - including potatoes, dried peas, apples, sugar beets, rice and buckwheat.

Corn crop September forecast 3.1 billion bushels, 25 million more than last year and second only to record crop of 1942. Such a corn crop would be nearly one-third above the 10-year average (1933-42).

The country grew a billion bushels of wheat in 1915; but this year the crop is estimated at 1,115 million bushels, nearly 10 percent more than that previous record.

Oat crop now placed at 1,190 million bushels, about 4 percent above last year.

Rice forecast 68 million bushels, about 3 percent under last year but 37 percent above 1933-42 average.

Tobacco expected to be second largest crop on record. All types forecast at total of 1,731 million pounds, compared with 1,400 million pounds last year. Burley crop 441 million pounds, a record crop.

September cotton forecast 11,483,000 bales of 500-pounds gross weight, compared with 11,427,000 bales produced last year and ten-year average (1933-42) of 12,455,000 bales. This year's yield per acre expected to exceed previous record of 272.4 pounds per acre produced in 1942.

Potato prospects declined during August. September forecast 377.6 million bushels, compared with 465 million last year and 363 million, the 10-year average.

Sweet potato forecast 68-3/4 million bushels, compared with 72 million last year and average of 67.2 million.

Total hay crop, including tame and wild, forecast 98 million tons, about 2 million less than last year. Including old hay carried over, this year's indicated supply is 108 million tons, about 5 million less than last year but 12 million above average.

ABUNDANT FRUIT

Commercial apple crop estimated 123 million bushels, 38 percent more than last year's short crop but about average.

Peach crop much larger this year than last (1943 crop was almost a failure).

September estimate 72.3 million bushels, 11 percent above last year and 25 percent above average.

Pear crop estimated 29.2 million bushels, 19 percent above last year and 2 percent above average.

Grapes 2,758,000 tons, 7 percent smaller than record crop of 1943, but 16 percent above average.

LESS MEAT ON THE HOOF

Supply of cattle in feed lots sharply less than last year. Number on feed for market in 11 corn belt States August 1 was 700,000 fewer (41 percent) than year ago; smallest number since 1937. Decrease sharpest on record except following 1934 drought. Reduction was in long-fed cattle; latter only 42 percent of number on feed year previous. This provides an explanation of smaller beef marketings this fall.

This year's lamb crop estimated 29.6 million head; 5-1/2 percent under last year and about 3 percent under 1933-42 average. Smallest lamb crop since 1930, except following drought years. In Native sheep States, lamb crop about 10.4 million head, 7 percent under last year. Number of breeding ewes January 1 were 7 percent below year previous in both Native and Western sheep States, and numbers probably will be lower next year.

Production of shorn wool this year estimated 355 million pounds, compared with 384 million pounds last year and 1938-42 average of 376 million pounds. Decline in production this year (8%) is one of largest drops on record. Average price to growers this year not greatly different from 1943 average of 41.6 cents a pound. Mill consumption of apparel wool in first half of 1944 was slightly smaller than record 311 million pounds (scoured basis) used in same period last year. Consumption for year may equal or exceed last year's record of 592 million pounds.

MILK OUTPUT HOLDING WELL BUT FEWER CALVES GROWING

Milk production during August was estimated at 10.4 billion pounds, about 2 percent below August last year. Decline in milk produced per cow this August was about half offset by larger number of cows. Pastures in many Northeastern States poor because of drought but supplementary feeding partly made up for this.

Number of milk cows on farms increased about 2 percent in year ending this June, according to survey. This increase was about the same as in preceding years.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	JULY 15 1944	AUG. 15 1944	AUG. 15 1944
Wheat, bu.	dol. 1.39	1.35	1.50
Corn, bu.	dol. 1.17	1.17	1.09
Oats, bu.	dol. .76	.71	.678
Cotton, lb.	ct. 20.32	20.15	21.08
Potatoes, bu.	dol. 1.38	1.59	1.23
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol. 12.70	13.50	12.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb.	dol. 11.70	11.70	9.21
Veal calves, 100 lb.	dol. 13.00	12.90	11.50
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol. 12.70	12.30	10.00
Butterfat, lb.	ct. 50.2	50.2	¹ 42.5
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.	dol. 3.15	3.22	¹ 2.67
Chickens, live, lb.	ct. 24.2	24.1	19.4
Eggs, doz.	ct. 31.2	33.0	¹ 36.2

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Number of heifer calves saved for milk cows in early 1944 showed sharp reduction under like periods of other recent years. Suggests that number of heifer calves on hand next January 1 may be as much as 10 percent less than last January.

FEWER PULLETS

Hens laid 4 billion eggs during August, an all-time high production for the month, 3 percent above August last year and 42 percent above ten-year August average. During first 8 months this year, egg production totaled 44.3 billion eggs, 6 percent above last year and 48 percent above average.

Indications are for fewer laying hens this coming winter, however. Number of pullets not yet of laying age on farms September 1 estimated 267.5 million. Of chicks hatched since June 1, the number left on farms September 1 was 142 million, a decrease of 37 percent from a year ago and the smallest number in 4 year record.

Average prices received by farmers for eggs in mid-August 33 cents a dozen, compared with 38.8 cents a year earlier and 21.1 cents for the 10-year August average (1933-42). (August prices received for turkeys, however, were highest in 11 years of record, almost twice the 5-year average price.)

FARM REAL ESTATE TAXES SHOW LITTLE CHANGE

Taxes per acre on farm real estate, covering the entire United States, averaged 37 cents per acre in 1943, the same as in 1942, compared with 38 cents an acre in 1941, the same in 1940, 39 cents in 1939, and 57 cents per acre in 1930. The level of farm taxes per acre has been comparatively unchanged for 10 years. However, taxes per hundred dollars of real estate value have

shown a decline, largely as a result of substantial rise in farm land values.

Farm taxes per acre in 1943 averaged highest in New England, \$1.14 per acre; in the Middle Atlantic States they averaged \$1.07 per acre; in some of the Central States were Ohio, 70 cents; Illinois, 97 cents; Iowa, 99 cents; Missouri, 32 cents; Nebraska, 30 cents; Kansas, 33 cents per acre; the South Atlantic States averaged 29 cents an acre, the West South Central States 17 cents; the Rocky Mountain States 11 cents per acre; taxes in the 3 Coast States averaged, Washington, 32 cents; Oregon 22 cents; California, 77 cents an acre.

FEWER FARM WORKERS

Total number workers on farms September 1 were 11, 040,000, which was 4 percent below year earlier and 8 percent under 1935-39 September average. Greatest decline

was in East South Central Region. Number of family workers on farms 8,223,000, a decline of 2 percent from last year. Number of hired workers on farms 2,817,000, decline of 9 percent under year ago. Average working day of farm operators this September reported 12.1 hours against an average 12.4 hour day a year ago - suggests that farm labor situation may be a trifle less critical this fall than last.

MARKETING CHARGES RISE

Charges for marketing a representative food basket of farm products increased from \$209 in June to \$215 in July. This was the fourth consecutive increase; marketing charges in July 10.8 percent above March and highest since June 1943.

The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products decreased from 56 cents in June to 55 cents in July, the fourth consecutive decrease, farmer's share in July being 4 cents less than in March and least since June 1943.

FARM INCOME

Total receipts from farm products sold during July \$1,649 million, including \$47 million Government payments. Like figure in July 1943 was \$1,579 million which included \$35 million Government payments.

The January-July total receipts this year \$10,826 million, compared with \$9,765 million in the like period last year. These figures included \$555 million of Government payments this year and \$418 million last year.

LESS SUGAR

Total U.S. Sugar stocks June 30 were 1,288,000 short tons, 13 percent under year previous and lowest supply of record since 1935. Total receipts of sugar by refiners during first 6 months of 1944 were 2,673,000 short tons, 22 percent above like period 1943 - most of increase coming from Cuba. Total supplies for U. S. during 1944 apparently will be about 20 percent larger than in 1943, but smaller stocks and new Cuban crop suggest less supplies in 1945.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142-Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	AUGUST 1944
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	193
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	170
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	114
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	162
Retail prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	177
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	328
Weekly factory earnings . .	1910-14 = 100	418
RATIOS	LONG-TIME AUG.-AVERAGE	AUGUST 1944
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . .	11.3	11.5
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. .	23.4	23.2
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	1.21	1.31
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	15.9	14.6
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-JULY 1943	JAN.-JULY 1944
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	73.34	73.3
Eggs, (Bil.)	38	40
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	3,140	3,679
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	478	480
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . .	6,866	8,538
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	10,723	13,088
¹ July figure.		
² Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. June figure.		